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1749, December 22nd. Joseph Morton. Deed. Richmond Co.

From Joseph Morton, of King George Co., conveying land formerly owned by his father John Morton.

1750, November 5th. Frances Morton. Richmond Co. O. B. 12-281.

Alvin Mountjoy appointed guardian to Francis Morton, an infant under the age of 21 years. Comment: What child could this have been?

(TO BE CONTINUED)

FIELDING AND DAVIS NOTES.

THE FIELDING FAMILY OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

Contributed by Dr. J. L. MILLER, Thomas, W. Va.

In the latter half of the 17th century, there lived in the city of Bristol, England, a wealthy merchant family by the name of Fielding, consisting of six brothers and sisters, as follows: Edward, Richard, Ambrose (the immigrant to Virginia), Dr. Robert, Mrs. Elizabeth Gwinn, Mrs. Margaret Fryer, wife of Walter Fryer, and two half-brothers, Giles and Francis Manning. In the wills of Edward and Richard Fielding they are spoken of as "my brother-in-law Giles Manning and his now wife," and "my brother-in-law Francis Manning and his now wife." However, at that period the term "brother-in-law" commonly used to designate half-brothers or step-brothers.

At that time in England most of the wealthy merchant families were offshoots from the great families of the gentry and nobility; and this family of Fielding was probably a cadet branch of the ancient family of Fielding of Newham Paddox, Warwickshire, which was elevated to the peerage in 1620. From old wills, deeds, etc., of the Fieldings, dated between 1662 and 1695, now in my possession, and from research made for me in the Northumberland records, I have gleaned the following family history: 1st. Edward Fielding, an alderman of the city of Bristol, died in 1694-5, leaving a vast estate, consisting of several thousand pounds in money, a great deal of real estate and other property in Bristol, three country estates, known as Arnold in Wilts, and Cardet Hall, and Eniterne in Monmouthshire, a lot of silver plate, rich jewels, etc., to his wife, Elizabeth, and children, Elizabeth, Susannah, Martha, Mary, Anna and William. He also owned a large tract of land in Northumberland county, Virginia, five hundred acres of which he left to nephew, Edward Fielding, son of brother Ambrose.

2nd. Richard Fielding, a Bristol merchant, died in 1666, unmarried, leaving bulk of property in England and ship "Phenix" to brother Edward; and his plantation, servants, stock, etc., on Wicomico river, Northumberland county, Virginia, to brother Ambrose. This plantation

consisted of one thousand acres of land, purchased December 14, 1662, from Captain Peter Knight, who had patented it in 1657.

About 1667-8, Ambrose Fielding settled on his Virginia plantation, to which he added other land by purchase, as shown by a deed made by his son Richard September 1, 1686. In 1670 he was a justice for Northumberland county. In 1673 he made his will, which was recorded November 17, 1675. He left ten shillings to wife, Anne, and the remainder of his estate to his children, Richard, Edward and Anne in equal shares. His family seems to have been yet in England at this time, but Richard was a resident of Virginia September 1, 1686, and Edward was married here about 1687-8. Richard's will was probated September 20, 1717, with nephew Ambrose executor. About 1687-8, Edward Fielding married Winifred Conway, daughter of Dennis and Anne Conway, of Northumberland county. Her father settled in this county about 1665, where he died in 1709, as shown by a suit against his estate in 1712, by Edward and Winifred Fielding. He had seven children—Winifred, Elizabeth, John, "eldest sonne and heire," born January 15, 1673; Thomas, born January 15, 1680; Lazarus, born July 20, 1682; and Christopher, born May 3, 1684. Edward and Winifred Fielding had the following children: Ambrose, born January 31, 1689; Sarah, born May 12, 1695; Rachel, born September 26, 1697; Thomas, born April 22, 1699; Edwin, born about 1701-2. Edward Fielding's will was probated May 19, 1714, with wife Winifred as executrix (this will book has been lost). Besides the land inherited from his father and Uncle Edward, Edward Fielding owned half of 850 acres of land granted to John Harris and him, September 30, 1695, by Lady Culpeper and Lord Fairfax. In the boundaries of this land mention is made of Fielding's Mill Dam and Pond. In a deed from James Pope to Christopher Neale, August 19, 1691, mention is made of Fielding's Bridge across a swamp that falls into the Great Wicomoco river. Winifred Conway Fielding married, 2nd, Thomas Dameron, and later they were sued by her son, Ambrose Fielding, to recover some of his father's estate. Ambrose F. probably married about 1710, as he had a deed at that time from his father for 130 acres of land, part of 1,200 acres patented by Captain Knight in 1657. His will was probated May 14, 1750, and mentions son Ambrose and daughter Hannah Pitman; it was witnessed by his brother Edwin and wife Judith. Sarah Fielding married about 1717 Thomas Davis, and had the following children: Edward Fielding Davis, born May 6, 1718; James C., born November 3, 1719; John, born July 3, 1723; Richard, born June 15, 1725; William, born April 30, 1727; Susannah, born September 29, 1729. For further notice of her descendants see Davis notes. Of Rachel and Thomas Fielding I have found no record—they probably died in childhood. In 1737, Edwin and wife Judith sold land to Thomas Davis, and they were living in 1750, as shown by will of Ambrose Fielding; but unless there were two Edwin

Fieldings, Judith F. must have died about this time, as in October, 1753, Edwin F. mortgaged 137 acres of land and two negroes (*wife not mentioned*), and December 6, 1754, Edwin and Winifred Fielding (his probably wife) sold 150 acres of land.

In a letter of attorney to Thomas Hobson, Sr., from Edward Fielding, dated September 13, 1684, he uses an octogon shaped seal bearing on a field or. a lion rampant ppr. These arms are different from those of Henry Fielding, father of Frances Fielding Lewis, of Gloucester county, Va., which were arg. on a chief az. three lozenges or.

There are other Fieldings mentioned in the Northumberland records, but I cannot give their relationship to the family traced above. The entries are: Joseph Fielding, deed, 1663; Mrs. Hannah Fielding, judgement, 1669; Daniel Fielding, will, 1714. The relationship may be something like this: Joseph Fielding was a brother of Edward, Richard, Ambrose and others, of Bristol, and having died prior to Richard in 1666, does not appear in the wills of Richard 1666, Ambrose 1675, and Edward 1695. Mrs. Hannah Fielding was probably his widow, and Daniel Fielding their son. There were four Fielding soldiers in the Revolutionary war. They were George, James, Joseph and Eppy Fielding, probably all from Northumberland county.

DOCUMENTS.*

WILL OF RICHARD FEILDING, 1667.

(Abstract.)

Richard ffeilding, Merchant, Bristol, England. Dated July 16th, 1666. Recorded in Northumberland county, Virginia, April 8th, 1667.

Bequeaths his estate as follows:

- 1st. To brother Robert ffeilding, of Glouc'ter, five shillings.
- 2nd. To sister Elizabeth Gwin, of Horton in Gloucester, five shillings.
- 3rd. To brother-in-law Giles Mauning [the *William and Mary Quarterly* calls him Mourning] & his wife five shillings each.
- 4th. To Francis Manning, oldest son of Giles Manning, five pounds.
- 5th. To brother-in-law Francis Manning & his wife each five shillings, "and in case she hath a son I give & bequeath unto him five pounds," but if the child proves to be a daughter she is to have but forty shillings.
- 6th. To sister Margaret Fryer twenty pounds, in case his ship *Phoenix* arrives safely in England; "and my will is that Walter Fryer, her husband, shall not intermeddle or have anything to do with the same.

* The papers of which abstracts are given were among a mass of documents belonging to a branch of the Carter family of Virginia, which were purchased some years ago by W. R. Benjamin, the New York dealer. After passing through several hands, these have become the property of Dr. Miller.